

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14
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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7987
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LIMA

UNCLAS QUITO 2641

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: MEETINGS OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE

REFS: (A) QUITO 2586; (B) STATE 098631;

1. EMBOFFS CLARIFIED INFORMATION REPORTED IN REF A IN FURTHER CONVERSATIONS ON APRIL 19 WITH PERUVIAN ATTORNEY GENERAL NELSON DIAZ AND ECUADOREAN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL GUSTAVO MEDINA. IT TURNS OUT THAT DIAZ ONLY ASSUMED THE US HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE CARACAS MEETING, WHOSE VARIED AGENDA INCLUDES ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC. IN THE INVITATION (DATED FEBRUARY 1) TO DIAZ FROM VENEZUELAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE JUAN MARTIN ECHEVERRIA, THE MEETING IS TITLED THE IV CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE FROM HISPANO-AMERICAN COUNTRIES AND THE PHILIPPINES. THIS RUBRIC MOST LIKELY EXPLAINS WHY THE US HAS NOT BEEN INVITED. DIAZ REITERATED HIS INTEREST IN HAVING THE US ATTEND. THE MEETING IN LIMA HAS BEEN POSTPONED, NOT CANCELLED, AND WILL TAKE PLACE (ACCORDING TO MEDINA) IN LATE JUNE OR EARLY JULY. BY THAT TIME THE ECUADOREANS AND PERUVIANS HOPE TO HAVE PREPARED DRAFTS OF THE "MODEL LAW" AND AN EXTRADITION CONVENTION.

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PRESENTATIONS IN CARACAS ON THESE SUBJECTS WILL BE GENERAL.

2. IF THE USG HAS COMPLETED ANY WORK ON A MODEL LAW THAT COULD BE SHARED WITH PERU AND ECUADOR, THEY WOULD FIND IT USEFUL IN PREPARING FOR THE LIMA MEETING.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN THAT NARCOTICS DOES FIGURE ON THE
AGENDA FOR CARACAS, THE US MAY BE INTERESTED IN
APPLYING FOR OBSERVER STATUS FOR THAT PORTION OF THE
CONFERENCE. END COMMENT.
CORR

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